

29 January 1966

Dear Clark:

I appreciated so much the opportunity to appear before you and the President's Foreign Intelligence Advisory Board this week and feel that it was most helpful to me in my current responsibilities.

There is one point which I believe, however, needs to be emphasized and I regret that time went by so fast that I did not make it during the formal meetings.

This is in regard to the thought expressed by some members of the committee that there should be a "Mr. China," a man who could be expected to produce any and all kinds of information regarding the intelligence efforts against China.

Just let me say that we do have such a person and he is at the correct level to assure an integrated and task force approach to the problem. This task force functions at an authoritative level where it can work most effectively to achieve a coordinated effort and provide integrated to "total" guidance to the collection and supporting analytical activities necessary to produce the essential information for final evaluation. At the level at which we now have this task force leader, he is the task force leader for the entire intelligence effort insofar as it relates to collection and analytical support activities and is in a position to examine carefully the many collection requirements, to note areas which should be strengthened and/or to detect actual gaps or deficiencies in the total acquisition program for the many elements that go into the intelligence picture. This involves, of course, the collection and collation of information across the board from hard sciences to political sciences, including economics and, of course, the military posture of China.

This information then is fed into estimative and evaluation components which have trained analysts in many fields who are in a position to assist each other in the final appraisal of the significance of the information obtained and to put out coordinated substantive intelligence utilizing mature judgments of the Directorate of Intelligence, the Board of National Estimates and, finally, to the top U. S. Intelligence Board. The latter serves as the DCI's top staff for the community.

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We have looked again at the problem and feel that this task force concept is a very good one. The problem here, of course, is how to ensure a concerted intelligence effort against a priority intelligence objective, in this case China, with a view to achieving optimum results from available collection, analytical or support facilities.

This is, of course, different from the problem of formulating substantive intelligence judgments. These judgments are complex and diverse and cover the entire spectrum of human knowledge, including science, technology, politics, economics and military activity. It would be asking too much to expect any one man to provide the answers in all these fields. We do however provide the mechanism to get this accomplished.

So it is that the DCI, sitting on top of the entire intelligence community, is the best person to go to if you want an answer on any or all questions pertaining to a country. Directly subordinate to him is his Deputy Director for Intelligence, one of our most seasoned and best informed men, who has the entire analytical, evaluative and substantive intelligence Directorate at his command to deal on a continuing basis with matters of concern. The Directorate of Intelligence, which includes the Office of Current Intelligence, provides the principal analytical and evaluative basic information type studies for CIA proper and also provides the basic support for the Board of National Estimates. The Chairman of the Board of National Estimates is also immediately subordinate to the DCI and has available to him all the competence which the Board represents. This Board normally prepares the basic papers for USIB consideration. The activities and output of the Directorate of Intelligence and the Chairman of the Board of National Estimates as you know are very closely coordinated. These are the appropriate officials, next to the DCI, to respond to requests for any type of information or composite information on a subject such as China.

I trust that this will give you assurance that you can go to one place for a composite answer and that this letter will be of interest to you and to members of the Board.

Please be assured that we are grateful for your most helpful suggestions and continued guidance and that we welcome at any time you or members of the Board coming and working with us because we are most eager to improve our performance.

Most sincerely,

/S/ W. F. "Red" Raborn

W. F. Raborn

lcc -- Each member of PFIAB
lcc - Exec. Secretary, PFIAB

The Honorable Clark Clifford
Chairman
President's Foreign Intelligence Advisory Board
Washington, D. C.

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